Safety of foreign tourists

79. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of foreign tourists has decreased during the year 2007-08 than the previous years;

(b) if so, the total number of foreign tourists visited India during this year and during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) whether the decrease in the number of foreign tourists is due to non-safety of the tourists; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to provide full safety and security to foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourist arrivals in India during 2005, 2006 and 2007 were as under:

Year	Foreign tourist arrivals in India (million)
2005	3.92
2006	4.45
2007	4.98

This data reveals that the foreign tourist arrivals in India in 2007 registered a growth of 11.9% over 2006.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Tourist Police

80. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has directed the States to set up Tourist Police in all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at present only 10 States have Tourist Police;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are any plans to utilize the services of about 60,000 people who retire from armed forces for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi have deployed Tourist Police in one form or the other. In some States the Ex-Servicemen have been deployed for the purpose.

Funding for Tourist Police

81. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has written to the States to introduce Special Tourist Police to control incidents of molestation/rape especially of foreign tourists;